

Date: June 4, 2001

Attachment to Preliminary Amendment dated June 4, 2001

Marked-up Claims 1-9

--1. (Amended) An absorbent structure for absorbent articles such as diapers, pants diapers, incontinence protectors, sanitary napkins, panty liners, [characterised in that] wherein the structure comprises at least 40 percent by weight superabsorbent material based on the total weight of the absorbent structure in a dry state in the region or in these regions in which the superabsorbent material is distributed, wherein said superabsorbent material is a partially neutralised superabsorbent material having a degree of neutralisation between 20 and 50% the absorbent structure has a thickness of 1 mm to 8 mm when dry.

2. (Amended) An absorbent structure according to Claim 1, [characterised in that] wherein the degree of neutralisation is between 25 and 35%.

3. (Amended) An absorbent structure according to [any one of the preceding Claims, characterised in that] Claim 1, wherein the absorbent structure includes dry-formed, compressed CTMP pulp or CP pulp in addition to superabsorbent material.

4. (Amended) An absorbent structure according to [any of the preceding Claims, characterized in that] Claim 1, wherein said structure has a thickness of 1 mm to 3mm when dry.

Attachment to Preliminary Amendment dated June 4, 2001

Marked-up Claims 1-9

5. (Amended) An absorbent structure according to [any one of the preceding Claims, characterised in that] Claim 1, wherein said absorbent article is intended for incontinence protectors or feminine products.

6. (Amended) An absorbent structure according to [any of the preceding claims, characterised in that] Claim 1, wherein the partially neutralised superabsorbent material is placed in the wetting region and conventional superabsorbent material having a degree of neutralisation of about 70% is placed outside the wetting region.

7. An absorbent article according to [any of claims 1-5, characterised in that] Claim 1, wherein the structure comprises a first zone closer to the wearer including the partially neutralised superabsorbent material and a second zone which is located beneath the first zone in a direction [form] from the wearer of the absorbent article, wherein the second zone comprises conventional superabsorbent material having a degree of neutralisation of about 70%.

8. An absorbent structure according to [any of claim 1-5, characterised in that] Claim 1, wherein the partially neutralised superabsorbent is placed in a layer or sheet in the bottom or lower part of the structure.

Attachment to Preliminary Amendment dated June 4, 2001

Marked-up Claims 1-9

9. (Amended) An absorbent article such as a diaper, pant diaper, incontinence protector, sanitary napkin, panty liner, comprising an upper liquid-permeable sheet, a bottom liquid-impermeable barrier sheet, and an absorbent structure enclosed therebetween, characterised in that the absorbent structure is of the kind defined in [one or more of Claims 1 to 8] Claim 1.--